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## Resolution 1961-01-13 Recognition of Recreation and Wildlife Values as a Primary Justification for Federal Land and Water Conservation Projects

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 1**

### **RECOGNITION OF RECREATION AND WILDLIFE VALUES AS A PRIMARY JUSTIFICATION FOR FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS**

Whereas, the conservation and perpetuation of fish and wildlife resources is becoming increasingly important in meeting the recreational needs of our expanding population, and

Whereas, large sums of public money are being spent by federal agencies for the development of water and land resources, and

Whereas, federal laws provide that these projects be constructed for the primary purposes of soil erosion control, flood control, navigation, irrigation or power, and

Whereas, the recreational values and utility of these projects to the general public can be greatly enhanced in the planning stage and are definitely public values of as wide or wider impact than the above primary purposes;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that the Congress of the United States also recognize fish, wildlife, and general recreation as primary purpose of such projects and support in principle the provisions of H.R. 3321, 87th Congress, that adequate land be acquired in fee simple by the federal government at federal land and water conservation projects to guarantee public access and development and use of the area by the public for all feasible types of outdoor recreation;

Be it further resolved that these values be recognized as justification for federal construction and development in the same manner as any other public values.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2**

### **WETLAND DRAINAGE**

Whereas, adequate wetlands are a basic requirement for the preservation of the nation's waterfowl resource, and

Whereas, the U. S. Department of Agriculture is continuing to subsidize the drainage of wetlands, and

Whereas, the phrase, "Provided further, that no change shall be made in such 1961 program which will have the effect in any county of restricting eligibility requirements or cost-sharing on practices included in either the 1958 or 1959 programs, unless such change shall have been recommended by the county committee and approved by the state committee," inserted in the Agriculture Appropriations Bill (P.L. 86-532, 6-29-60) Agriculture Conservation Service Program Service, passed by Congress last year, permits the further subsidization of drainage of wetlands, and

Whereas, this phrase undoubtedly was inserted originally to protect liming practices from possible administrative controls and had no particular application to wetland drainage, and

Whereas, both houses of congress have passed legislation authorizing the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the United States Department of the Interior, to obtain an advance of at least \$50,000,000 for the immediate acquisition of wetlands, and

Whereas, contradictory programs are not only senseless but result in a useless waste of tax dollars and pose a serious threat to the continuance of annual waterfowl flights which, by furnishing recreation to the people of all States, contribute millions of dollars to the nation's economy, and

Whereas, the Interior Department asked that drainage of many specific wetlands be discontinued, yet local committees approved the stopping of only about one-fourth of those projects, and

Whereas, President Kennedy specifically requested the resolving of this conflict in his natural resources message (page 9, House Document 94) but that nothing can be done to remedy the situation if the above or similar language is inserted in future appropriations for Agriculture, now

Therefore be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners hereby requests the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations to exclude this statement or amend it to deny subsidization of wetland drainage.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 3**

### **CHANGES IN FEDERAL CODE CONCERNING MULTIPLE USE OF PUBLIC DOMAIN**

Whereas, the Public Domain now administered by the Department of Interior through the Bureau of Land Management has become increasingly important as a source of forage for big game animals in the western states to the extent that many game herds are dependent for their continued existence upon certain strategic areas of the federal range, and

Whereas, the Bureau of Land Management has announced its determination to now manage these lands under a multiple use policy which will include recognition of outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing as part of the primary uses of these public lands;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners commends the Department of Interior for the administrative changes made in broadening the scope and responsi-